

AS

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NOS. 97-077-C & 97-078-C - ORDER NO. 97-368  
MAY 2, 1997

IN RE: Docket No. 97-077-C - Request of GTE	)	ORDER
South, Inc. (formerly Contel) for	)	GRANTING
Revisions to its General Exchange Tariff	)	CONTINUANCE
deleting Public Coin Telephones &	)	AND OTHER
Semi-Public Coin Telephones and adding	)	RELIEF
Answer Supervision and Customer-Owned	)	
Pay Telephone (COPT) Coin Line Service to	)	
Comply with FCC Report & Order,	)	
CC DN 96-128 and FCC Order No. 96-439.	)	
	)	
AND	)	
	)	
Docket No. 97-078-C - Request of GTE	)	
South, Inc. for Revisions to its General	)	
Customer Services Tariff deleting Public	)	
Coin Telephones and Semi-Public Coin	)	
Telephones and adding Answer Supervision	)	
and Customer-Owned Pay Telephone (COPT)	)	
Coin Line Service to comply with FCC	)	
Report and Order, CC DN 96-128 and FCC	)	
Order No. 96-439.	)	

This matter is before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on a Motion for Continuance of the hearing in these matters and other relief filed by the South Carolina Public Communications Association (SCPCA). SCPCA notes that the Commission hearing in these matters is set for June 12, 1997. SCPCA notes that the FCC's recent clarification of intrastate filing requirements and limited waiver make it impossible to fully and effectively develop the records and hear

these matters in such a short time frame. Also, according to SCPCA, any amended tariff filings will need to be noticed to the public. For these reasons, SCPCA requests a continuance of the hearing. According to SCPCA, the continuance will serve the public and all parties in the proceeding by allowing for the development of full and complete records upon which the Commission may rule.

The Commission has examined this matter, and agrees with SCPCA that recent clarification of intrastate filing requirements and limited waiver will make it impossible to fully and effectively develop records in these cases and hear the matters in such a short time frame. Therefore, the Commission grants the continuance.


In addition, SCPCA alleges that GTE South Inc. (Contel) and GTE South Inc. (GTE) (the Companies') proposed tariffs in this Docket fail the "new services test" under Federal law in various particulars, and that the tariffs are discriminatory on their face. SCPCA therefore asks for an investigation into Contel's and GTE's rates for the basic payphone line and unbundled features, and states that such an investigation would serve the public convenience and necessity. SCPCA also questions the Companies' eligibility for dial around compensation, and requests that this Commission issue a data request to investigate the two Companies basic and coin line services and unbundled network features.

Accordingly, because of these allegations and requests, we hereby order Staff to conduct an investigation to review Contel's

and GTE's entire tariffs for payphone service with regard to the issues alleged in the Motion. Staff shall also issue the requested Data Requests. Further, we will accept any amended tariff revisions into the present Dockets, requiring any such amendments to be noticed to the public. We also hereby order the Companies to restructure their tariffs for payphone services to comply fully with the Telecommunications Act of 1996, as implemented by the FCC through the Payphone Orders issued in CC Docket No. 96-128. Further, the Companies shall reimburse or provide credit to their payphone customers from April 15, 1997, if the newly approved rates are lower than existing tariffed rates.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director

(SEAL)